GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Andhra Pradesh Forest Department - Departmental proceedings initiated against Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked as Forest Range Officer, Eluru Range of Eluru Division, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 read with Rule 20 of A.P. Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 – Punishment of "withholding of 10% (ten percent) of pension for a period of five (5) years" – Imposed – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.6 **Dated:28.01.2023**

Read the following:

1)G.O.Ms.No.26, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Department, dated 26.10.2020.
2)G.O.Rt.No.81, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Department, dated 26.10.2020.
3)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, Lr.Ref.No.19/80/2019/A&DC-3, dated 01.05.2022.
4)Memo.No.1035/Sec.IV/A1/2020, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Department, dated 21.12.2022.
5)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-19/80/2019/A&DC-3(ii), dated 23.12.2022.
6)From Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, FRO (Retd.), Explanation to Show-cause Notice, dated 03.01.2023.
7)Letter No.1035/Sec.IV/A1/2020, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Department, dated 23.01.2023.
8)From the Secretary, APPSC, Vijayawada, File.No.GAD03-APPSC0DCC/15/2023-DC.SEC-APPSC (Computer No.1971464), dated 27.01.2023.

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ORDER:

In the G.O. 1st read above, orders have been issued according sanction for initiating disciplinary proceedings against Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked as Forest Range Officer, Eluru Range of Eluru Division, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980, as he was retired from Government Service on attaining the age of superannuation on 31.05.2019.

2. Vide G.O. 2nd read above, the following Article of Charge was issued to Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked as Forest Range Officer, Eluru Range of Eluru Division, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 read with Rule 20 of A.P. Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991:-

ARTICLE:"That Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retired) while working as Forest Range Officer, Eluru Range of Eluru Division from 28-04-2017 to 09-10-2018 and from 20-12-2018 to 31-05-2019 has grossly neglected his legitimate duty in preventing of encroachments in Bhogolu Beat of Eluru Range and failed to act as per Section 20 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967 and not maintained the status quo orders issued by the Hon'ble A.P. High Court in WP 26622/2013 and W.P.No.7175/2014".

[P.T.O]

3. In the letter 3rd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has informed that the Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of Article of Charge on 06.08.2021 and submitted his written defense statement on 16.08.2021. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has appointed the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle as Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Eluru Division as Presenting Officer in Proc.No.EFS02-19/80/2019/Vig-1 (i&ii), dated 24.11.2021, for conducting the regular inquiry.

4. The Inquiry Officer & the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle has completed the inquiry and submitted his findings along with connected case record in Rc.No.1631/2019/M8, dated 20.01.2022, wherein the Inquiry Officer has concluded as follows:-

> **Findings:**"After careful examination of the Article of Charges, explanations of the Charged Officers and record of enquiry with the connected available records and remarks submitted by the Divisional Forest Officer, Eluru, it is construed that though the Charged Officer has put certain efforts to stop the encroachments in Bhogolu Forest Block, he has failed to completely stop the encroachments in Forest land in Bhogolu Forest Block amounting to violation of Status quo orders of the Hon'ble High Court. Hence, part of the Charge framed against Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Forest Range Officer, Eluru (T) Range of Eluru Division is proved to the extent of not maintaining the status quo orders of Hon'ble High Court of A.P. Accordingly, **part of the charge is held proved**."

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has communicated the findings of the Inquiry Officer to the Charged Officer in Ref.No.19/80/2019/A&DC-3, dated 28.01.2022, for submission of further defence. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of the Final Notice and submitted his further defence statement, dated 09.02.2022, wherein he did not submit any new/fresh/valid points.

6. After careful examination of the matter, with reference to findings of the Inquiry Officer, and material made available on record, Government have taken a provisional decision to impose a punishment of "withholding of 10% (ten percent) of pension for a period of five (5) years", against Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked as Forest Range Officer, Eluru Range of Eluru Division, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 read with Rule 20 of A.P. Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991. Accordingly, a Show-cause Notice was issued to the retired Charged Officer in Memo., 4th read above. In the reference 6th read above, the retired charged officer has submitted his explanation to the Show-cause Notice.

7. After careful examination of the matter and it is observed that further defence statement submitted by the Charged Officer on the findings of the Inquiry Officer and the explanation submitted by the Charged Officer to Show-cause Notice, are one and the same. There are no new / fresh / valid grounds to consider his explanation. Therefore, Government have decided to confirm the provisional decision to impose a punishment "withholding of 10% (ten percent) of pension for a period of five (5) years", against Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked as Forest Range Officer, Eluru Range of Eluru Division, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

[Contd...]

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8. In the reference 7th read above, the Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada has been consulted in the matter; and in the letter 8th read above, the Commission have communicated their advice.

9. After careful examination of the entire matter, the Government hereby order to impose a punishment of "withholding of 10% (ten percent) of pension for a period of five (5) years", against Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked as Forest Range Officer, Eluru Range of Eluru Division, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDRHA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked as Forest Range Officer, Eluru Range of Eluru Division through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur.

Copy to:

The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Mangalagiri, Guntur District.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.
The P.S. to Secretary to Chief Minister, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
The OSD to M (Energy, EFS&T, Mines & Geology).
The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
The PS to the Special Chief Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department.
SF/SC (Computer No.1208628)

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER